



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DEC 19 2007

Ernest Troiano, Jr.
Mayor
City of Wildwood
440 New Jersey Avenue
Wildwood, New Jersey 08260

Dear Mayor Troiano:

This is in response to your request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the City of Wildwood's proposed Stormwater Drainage Improvements project located in Cape May County, New Jersey.

The project, which involves improving the storm drainage system in portions of the Back Bay area of the City to reduce flooding and other drainage issues, may be partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

This CATEX is available for public viewing on EPA Region 2's website, <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs>. Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alan J. Steinberg", is written over a horizontal line.

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Glenn Balmer, City of Wildwood

ENCLOSURE

City of Wildwood Stormwater Drainage Improvements Cape May County, New Jersey Special Appropriation Project (XP-972619-05)

Background

Streets within the Ottens Harbor and Rio Grande Avenue sections of the Back Bay area in the City of Wildwood experience flooding during wet weather events. As storm water runoff increases during severe wet weather, the catch basins and streets become inundated because of high water levels. The flooding problem is further exacerbated when the water level in the Bay rises from tidal occurrences causing the storm water to be pushed back through the storm drainage piping into the Back Bay area of the City. This situation also increases the amount of floatables entering local waterways.

Proposed Action

To reduce flooding between Lake Drive and West Magnolia Avenue, Wildwood Canal and Lake Avenue, and Baker Avenue and Susquehanna Avenue in the Back Bay area, the City of Wildwood proposes to implement the following improvements:

- Relocate Tide Flex valves at the outfall pipe located on West Glenwood Avenue to a new outfall location at the end of West Magnolia Avenue.
- Remove and/or abandon the existing storm drainage system on West Glenwood Avenue.
- Install two Type "B" inlets and a manhole with 12-inch ductile iron pipe at the north and northwest side of Susquehanna Avenue.
- Remove and replace concrete vertical and gutter curbs to achieve desirable inlet slopes.
- Repair roads and improve drainage conditions by completing full depth and width pavement reconstruction on Susquehanna Avenue and West Baker Avenue at the northwest side of the intersection.
- Replace various Tide Flex valves that have exceeded their life expectancies and are ineffective against tidal occurrences and floating debris.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, "No Action" was considered. No action would result in continued street flooding problems because of the inadequate storm drainage system in the Back Bay area of the City. Continuation of the present condition will cause the storm drainage infrastructure and roadways to further deteriorate, exacerbating local flooding conditions. Additionally, floatables will continue to enter nearby waterways during uncontrolled flooding events.

Determination for Granting Categorical Exclusion

The Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility requirements found in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii) apply to this action. This category includes, "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity, or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve: a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water; an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water; or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Review of the available information provided by the applicant on the proposed action indicates that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (10) are involved.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.